

Belgian Laces



BELGIAN LACES

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THE BELGIAN RESEARCHERS
Belgian American Heritage Association
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Our principal objective is:

Keep the Belgian Heritage alive in our hearts and in the hearts of our posterity

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Dear Members,

February 1992

We hope all of you started the new year on the right foot, and that you are looking confidently towards the future. If the weather is any indication it should be a sunny 1992 for Oregon, sunny and dry! We have not had a winter yet (I'm knocking on wood!), no snow whatsoever, which is NOT good, only a few days of very light rain, and hardly any frost. Our tulips are up, two months early. Lets hope that Father Winter does not wake up late!

A second one of our members has discovered that her research stopped abruptly in Ghent, Belgium in the year 1812, due to the fact that one of her ancestors was a foundling. Because of this we are reprinting an article I wrote for Belgian Laces. In this article I discuss this very phenomenon: In the year 1812, the year that Beethoven wrote his beautiful 8th Symphony, the Police in Ghent recorded 103 abandoned children. Read the article 1812 in this issue!

In the Oregon Corner, the story of one of our ex-Baker City Belgians will certainly fascinate you. It may bring some nostalgia to the readers who remember Belgium and the intriguing pigeon raising and racing. Thank you Marcel Van Driesche for sharing this article with us.

An update on the progress in the Baker City saga: one of the members living now in the Portland area has suggested an 'Ex-Baker City Reunion' at Silver Falls Park for this Spring Or Early Summer. Great idea! We would like to hear from others if this is feasible and if we should proceed with plans of that nature? Bakerites Let Us Know! Remember that we are planning to invite the Belgian Consul General, Marc Otte! We would also like to include any other Belgians in Oregon or Washington for a grand Belgian feast. We need help for this, so let your wishes and support be known.

In the Wisconsin Corner, Mary Ann Defnet is bringing us an update on her activities, and is announcing the planned trip to Belgium for her group. We wish you and your co-travellers a heartfelt Bon Voyage, Mary Ann.

Talking about Wisconsin, a report of the adventures of the first settlers of the Brussels area is certain to capture your interest. This article is followed by an appeal by Father Jean Ducat for help in the completion of his emigrants lists. We hope our members will be able to help him in his research.

Thank You to all who immediately responded to our call for membership renewal. This prompt response confirms that we are doing the right thing. Unfortunately there are still many out there who have not responded yet. This is of course just an oversight (there is so much we have to keep track of these days!). However, our dues only barely cover our direct costs and WE NEED YOU! We send you this issue with an extra reminder that it will be your last, unless we receive your dues by the 13th of March.

Membership Drive: We would like to challenge each and every member to bring in one new one! This way we could double our membership, organize an official Non Profit Organization and cut our mailing costs considerably. The more we are, the stronger our organization will be. After all the Belgian coat of arms bears the motto L'Union Fait La Force,- Eendracht Maakt Macht, (Unity makes Strength). For each member taking us up on this challenge, we will send a nice book about Belgium, as a thank you.

The two first weeks of March, I will be in Chicago. One part of the Inghels family is taking up residence there, and I have been recruited to help drive the U-Haul truck from La Grande to Chicago. No small feat... (This gives me a chance to enjoy my grand kids a few more days). I certainly take advantage of my visit there to contact some of our local members.

We had quite a few requests for Micheline's excellent French Republican Calendar. They are still available through our office at the nominal cost of \$3.00 each, postpaid.

Let me end this long visit with you, reminding you that we are always looking forward to Your Contributions to your Newsletter. These are not only welcomed but solicited. We will add pages if necessary. We would really like to have a PA Corner, a WA corner, a NY corner, an MA corner, etc.. ever if it were just a greeting!

Looking forward to your reactions,

sincerely,

Pierre

Belgian Gleanings

Basic Facts about Belgium.

Area: 30,510 Km² or 11,783 Sq mi.

Population: 9,927,612 inhabitants or 842 per square mile.
Second most populated country of Europe, after The Netherlands with about 928 inhabitants per square mile. (Oregon has 28 inhabitants per square mile)

On the Origins of BELGIUM

Because of its strategic importance for the great powers of France, Prussia, Great Britain Austria and Russia, Belgium could not simply declare its independence in 1830. A compromise had to be found. The Belgian constitution provided that compromise: a democratic structure guaranteeing the rights of the people, formally headed by a monarch. Although officially a neutral country, Belgium was unable to avoid being drawn into both world wars, 1914 - 1918 and 1940 - 1945. Twice in 25 years, it was obliged to rebuild its economy and its cities. This is the explanation behind Belgium's commitment to the unification of Europe through co-operation instead of force. (from Belgium Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

One Nation With Three Cultures.

In Belgium, there are three official languages: Dutch, French and German and as many cultures. In the past, this cultural richness was sometimes the source of tensions. The establishment of a linguistic border eased these problems for a first time. To the North of it, the Flemish speak Dutch; in the South, the Walloon speak French; Brussels, the centrally-located capital, is officially Bilingual. The German speaking East Cantons used to belong to Germany but were joined to Belgium after the first World War.

The establishment of the language communities led to intensified demands for more autonomy and self-government. A number of constitutional amendments have been enacted since 1970 to meet these demands. The new Belgium has 5 decision making levels: 589 Communes, 9 Provinces, 3 Communities, 3 Regions and the Central State.

The Three Communities: (the Dutch, the French and the German speaking) deal with cultural matters, education, use of languages, and person related matters, such as health policy, policy of the disabled, and protection of youth. The three Regions (the Flemish, the Walloon and the Region of Brussels-capital) have authority over socio-economic matters such as town and country planning, housing, environment, economy, employment, energy, public works and transport. The Central State is responsible for important sectors such as National Defense, Foreign Policy, Social Security, Monetary Affairs and Justice.

Still No Central Government in Belgium.

Since the last elections in November last year, Belgium is still without government. Despite the continuous efforts of Mr. Wathélet, who has been asked by the King to form a new government, Belgium still does without one. It becomes a monotone saga for the Belgian population to hear daily that their political leaders seem to disagree on just about everything. That the country has to live without any solution to its problems frustrates many.

As over the last decade, more and more legislative power has been given to the regional governments, participation in a national government seems by many politicians perceived as nothing but a liability to their party.

Belgium, Host Country

Belgium was one of the signatories of the Charter of the European Economic Community in 1957.

Today, Belgium is the political and economic center of the European Community - 342 million inhabitants in 12 countries — comparable in size and potential to the USA.

Along with the European Community, NATO and about 1000 non-governmental international organizations have established their headquarters in Belgium. Brussels is, *after* New York, the second biggest center of multinational firms and belongs among the 10 largest financial centers of the world.

Again About French (Belgian) Fries.

We just received word that the French fries were so called by the American soldiers during World War I, because in Belgium the people who were selling the fries, were speaking French. And so the soldiers called them French Fries.

American cigarettes in Belgium.

Two US companies are sending about 40 billion cigarettes to the USSR during the next 16 months. What about other countries? For the first six months of 1991, all U.S. companies send 23 billion cigarettes to Belgium. Another 23 billion to Japan. About 10 billion to Hong Kong. About 3,5 billion to the United Arab Emirates, and a little more than 3 billion to Saudi Arabia. (Source: Tobacco Merchants Association of the U.S.)

Other sources tell us that Belgium is exporting a large part of these cigarettes to other countries, mostly to Africa?? and the Mid East.

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BELGIAN PIONEERS IN BRUSSELS, WISCONSIN.

This is the translation of a letter by Constant DELVEAUX, one of the first settlers of Brussels, Wisconsin. Born the First of August 1829 at Grez Doiceau, in Belgium, he died in 1923 at ninety three years of age. At the request of his pastor, Father J J Gloudemans, he wrote this account of his voyage and first years in America. This is the only known reminiscence left in writing by an early Belgian pioneer. Written in French, the following is a word by word rendition of Father G!oudemans translation. Constant Delveaux with his family and friends arrived n Green Bay about the middle of May 1856, and spent their first summer among old friends in Aux Premiers Belges (Robinsonville), Wisconsin. In November they moved to their own land in the town of Brussels. Here is his letter:

We left Belgium March 18, 1856, to betake ourselves to America. We remained two days in the city of Antwerp and on the third day we boarded the ship Lacedemon. We left the harbor of Antwerp and proceeded towards the entrance of the channel. There we remained three days before we could raise our sails. Then after a while we passed very close to a ship on which there were some of our neighbors. Our captain informed us that they were going to wait another day but we kept on, but when we were about ten miles out, we encountered such a terrific wind that it broke the three masts of our ship. The first mast was broken at the first section (a la premiere etage). It was five feet in circumference and the other masts were broken also. The passengers on the other ship were told that the Lacedemon was perishing. Our ship remained listed on its side, drifting helplessly for many days, and signals were given to the city of Flushing. The sailors cut the ropes with axes and the vessel righted itself somewhat. A boat arrived from Flushing (Vlissingen, The Netherlands) and towed us to the government shipyard. In order to make repairs it was necessary to get an entire pine tree just as it stood; this they loaded on the shoulders of the men, one on the right, another on the left, in a double row. It was very difficult for us to walk thus together. We stayed 23 days waiting for repairs, but finally we left on April 23rd. We had a beautiful voyage. We arrived in Quebec May 12th. A little boat towed us through the St. Lawrence River. At Quebec we disembarked but left our baggage on a small boat running from Quebec to Montreal, 60 leagues. At Montreal there was another transfer to take us to Toronto, where we transferred to cars as far as Lake Michigan and from there sailed to Green Bay.

At the time there were very few houses there. My father went to get some meat, and after leaving the butcher shop we cooked the meat right there near a cedar grove. A priest, Pere Baudoile (Bonduel), came and spoke to us. He was very glad to see us. Patris had a letter from a priest in Belgium to give to a lawyer in Green Bay, lawyer "Outte" or "Houtte"? The lawyer gave him a township plat and said in order to find the landholdings we should find a Mr. Rikare (Ricard) who was able to talk French, being a Mexican (!?).

to eat. There was also very good hunting and plenty of game. However in 1871 fire destroyed everything, in the parish of Rosiere there were only three houses left, and the next night there was a heavy rain and all the fire was extinguished.

In 1857 there were many newcomers to buy land in

He lived at Red River about 12 miles away from our allotted land. We found him; he took his compass along and took us directly to section 6, Township 26, Range 24, which was the place he had to find for us. There my father, Ferdinand Delveaux, took four forty's of section 6, Alexis Franc 2,

Patris 2 and Dandois 2. They made payment for the land they were going to work.

At the time we went to see Mr. Rikare at Red River, we saw some cabins of the savage Indians and said to Mr. Rikare: "How those people look at us!" He answered "No wonder; you are the first white people setting foot on land here, Mr. Rikare came to show us our land and we asked him to make us a little map to show us the line we had to follow when returning. The next day we returned all the men together to make little cabins with trees and branches to sleep under. That first night we had a rainstorm so severe that our gun barrels were full of water. That being the first night, things looked very disheartening to us.

These are the families who were the first emigrants to America to settle on Brussels territory: Ferdinand Delveaux and family; Etienne Dandois, his son-in-law Alexis Franc and Francois Patris. We had become like brothers together on our trip, having chosen our homestead together. Previous to leaving the old country, Patris and Alexis Franc, who lived an eight hours' walking distance from our home, came to visit us, to talk over our adventure and in order to accompany one another. They came then to assure us we would have no trouble buying our land because they had a letter from the lawyer "Oute", and they gave us useful information.

We lived in our new place here three years before seeing a horse. We finally saw one when a Monsieur Smith (Michael Schmidt) went in company with his wife to start a little store at the bay shore. His wife was on horseback and he went ahead cutting the branches so she would be able to pass. The years we were in the woods we saw savages, but they were honest. They would point to their mouth asking for something to eat. Before entering, they would leave their guns at the door. We had big sturgeon and very good fish

our neighborhood. Antoine Woineaux, Francois Gilson, Pierre Baye, Francois Springlaire, Joseph Quatremont and some others. The second year we were settled here, we had a visit from a priest. Father Daems, on his way back from Sturgeon Bay to Bay Settlement. In Sturgeon Bay he had baptized 23 children and had said mass three times, and for his services,

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he told me, he had received one dollar and twenty five cents to take home with him to Bay Settlement. In 1887 the wife of Antoine Woineaux died and they had to carry her all the way to Bay Settlement to be buried there in the cemetery. In 1866 a young man, the son of Ferdinand Delveaux, died at the age of 18 from sickness. He is the first one who was buried by Father Crude (Croute) at Union, the first one in our neighborhood.

Referring to our arrival in Green Bay:

We had considerable difficulty in getting our baggage. We had to retransport them to Bay Settlement and the roads were very bad to the hay. There was but one place where there was a little dock where we could leave our baggage. It was late in the month of November, and before coming to our own lands, we had planted some potatoes at Premier Belge (Robinsonville - Champion). It took the boat two days to deliver all our baggage. It was freezing quite hard and arriving at night they left all our stuff on the bay shore about three miles from our places with the result that all our potatoes were frozen. Those on the boat were Constant Delveaux, Alexis Franc and Francois Patris.

This is the way we started our work:

First we built our houses. This is the way we made our houses: We cut the logs to a size that four persons could carry. We had men from Premier Belge who came to saw them into boards as was done in the olden times and to make us shingles for roofing. They gave us a start to build our houses and we paid them a dollar a day with which they were well satisfied. Besides they taught us how to make shingles. We had brought along from the old country some stones for milling flour which were three feet in diameter. We had them fixed up for us by a village miller. By means of them we could easily grind a bushel of wheat in one hour with two men working. Once people heard about this, they kept us grinding grain for grinding (baking), and it went night and day. At night we made big wood fires to light up the mill. We would work at two or at four men, so it went faster.

To open the land, we cut down the timber. We rolled the logs together to burn them, we always tried to cut the roots at the bottom of the stump to have it easier to carry the ground in sacks and with our axes to plant potatoes and make our gardens, so we always worked to increase clearing. Later on,

when we had oxen, clearing land went faster. We seeded wheat and by means of drags with iron prongs we covered it with ground, twice or three times. We had then already fairly good land. Of course we had to make roads in the swamp. We placed heavier logs on both sides and we cut smaller ones to lay across. They were then fixed together, something like a bridge. When all the money that we had brought along from the old country was spent, we were obliged to make shingles, a very rude labor, but we had to do so in order to obtain flour, to make bread. We went into the woods to cut big fir trees, sawed them into suitable lengths, then carried them home on our backs to make shingles, which again we had to carry to the bay. Even the children had to carry them in a bag, according to their strength. Shingles were the only thing we could sell to make money. We actually had to eat dry bread. Bankbills (greenbacks) had no more full value, and when we came back from Green Bay with our money, we always lost on the bills we had received in payment. Often we had to hear that our notes were only good for 80 cents and sometimes 70 cents on the dollar. When we would go to the store, they would tell us our paper was only good for so much. Banks were collapsing everywhere. All during winter we were making shingles and when winter was passed, we worked in the fields. Wheat was 50 or 60 cents a bushel for many a year. I made ten thousand large sized shingles 1/2 inch thick and had to carry them to the bay. All this in order to be able to buy a two-year old heifer which had not yet had her calf. It was hard work to get a cow, but times were hard. Our parents were not seeing then what we are seeing now - automobiles at all doors, but they have seen misery and want all the time.

Constant Delveaux, son of Ferdinand Delveaux, has written down these information in order to give knowledge of his voyage to America and his entrance into the woods of Brussels.

This I have done at the request of Rev. J.J. Gludemans and Mr. Toussaint Mathy who came to me because I am the oldest man in this neighborhood, having attained the age of 90 years.

(signed) Constant

DELVEAUX

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The story of these first settlers, have been kept by two American history writers: H R HOLAND in his book Wisconsin Belgian Community, and by MS Tlachac in his book The History of the Belgian Settlement in Door, Kewaunee and Brown Counties, and by the handwritten notes of Constant Delveaux dated 1919, and trusted to Father J.J. Gloudemans, pastor of the Church of Saint Francis, in Brussels, Wisconsin. (Editor's note: which we reproduced here above. See next page for more).

Constant Delveaux, was the eldest son of a family of five children. His father was Hubert Ferdinand Delveaux and his mother Francoise Socquet. He was 27 years old when he emigrated with his family in 1856. His parents were to rejoin his paternal uncles Jean Joseph and Etienne Nicolas Delveaux, who came to Wisconsin in 1854 and 1855. (*) To go to the Mid-West, Etienne Delveaux had chosen the Canada route through St Lawrence. One can imagine that he told his relatives to go the same way.

Two years later, fifty-six new families, most of them from Walloon Brabant, joined this first group of pioneers.

The Council of Door County then decided to divide the county and created the commune of Brussels. (1858-1859). Other communes were Sugar Creek, Gardner and Union.

(*) The three brothers Delveaux were the children of Etienne Delveaux and Marie Therese DeJeneffe:

- Jean Joseph, born 5 July 1813 at Grez Doiceau. Widower of Anne Josephe Dumont. Left Belgium 29 Sept 1854,

- Etienne Nicolas born 5 Dec 1791 at Grez Doiceau. Widower of Anne Josephe Lacourt. Left Belgium 24 Apr 1855 with his daughter Marie Therese, his son-in-law Jean Baptiste Badert and their 3 children.

- Hubert Ferdinand Pierre, born 27 July 1800. Left Belgium 26 March 1856 with his family.

Following is a list of Belgian emigrants who were living in the Town of Brussels between the years 1856 and 1870.

Note of the Editor:

We are still missing some information about these people, and would like to ask our readers to help us fill the gaps: find the missing dates, the names, the places of origin, the ships used, are there any families left, where are they? Any little detail helps. Even if you know only one detail, please let us know! Write to Jean Ducat, in care of this office.

Thank you for your help!

Liste des émigrants belges établis dans le town de Brussels de 1856 à 1870 (*)

BALZA	Michel	JADOULE	Julie	
BASINNE	Clement	DACOSSE	Marie-Therese	Ernage
BAUGNET	Antoine	LEDOCQ	Marie-Louise	Grand-Leez
BAYE	Martin	DACOSSE	Augustine	Grand-Rosiere
BERO	Jean Baptiste	ROBSON	Marie-Therese	Sart-les-Walhain
BERO	Louis	MATHY	Josephine	Walhain
BOUCHER	Francois	LADURON	Julie	Ramillies
BOURNONVILLE	Pierre	BONPERE	Anne	Meux
BRANS	Victor	CHARLES	Julienne	Beauvechain
CESAR	Jean Baptiste			
CHARLES	Jean Baptiste	MASSART	Cecile	Grand-Leez
CHARLES	Joseph			
COCO	Ferdinand	CONNARD	Louise	
COISMAN	Louis	TAILLET	Celestine	Melin
COMBE	Lambert	ROUER	Marie	
COMBE	Francois			
DACHELET	Julien			Mont-Saint-Andre
DACHELET	Toussaint	GHEYNE	Marie	Mont-Saint-Andre
DAN DO IS	Etienne	DELVEAUX	Marie-Octavie	Thorembais-les-Beguines
DEDECKER	Olivier	PIETTE	Marie-Josephine	
DEFAY	Jean Joseph			
DELVEAUX	Hubert Ferdinand	SOCQUET	Marie-Francoise	Grez-Doiceau
DELVEAUX	Constant	DACHELET	Rosalie	Grez-Doiceau
DEL VEAUX	Celestin			Grez-Doiceau
DELPOSSE	Eugene	TONON	Desiree	

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DEMEUSE	Francois	DACHELET	Catherine		MIGNON	Norbert	LAURENT	Nora	Chastre-Villeroux
DESTAIN	Pierre	—		Emage	MOHIMONT	Antoine	LEGLISE	Henriette	
DEVOS	Pierre	—	Lucie		NANIOT	Antoine	NAZE	Marie-Therese	Petit-Rosiere
DETIENNE	Joseph	—			NAZE	Armand	LORGE	Rosalie	Grand-Leez
DEWT	Jean Baptiste	DELFOSSSE	Josephine	Tourinnes-St-Lambert	NAZE	Prosper	DUPUIS	Ferdinande	Grand-Leez
DEWT	Charles	COMBE	Marie		PATRIS	Francois	TOBA (?)	Marie	
DEJARDIN	Eugene	DETHIERE	Ferdinande	Rhisnes	PIERRE	Alexandre	MIGNON	Celestine	Noville-sur-Mehaigne
DUPONT	Eugene	LADURON	Julia	Meux	PIERRE	Francois	DEKEYSER	Angeline	Noville-sur-Mehaigne
ENGLEBERT	Jean Baptiste	PIERARD	Marie-Joseph	Gembloux	PIETTE	Charles	ROUER	Josephine	
ENGLEBERT	Desiree	GASPARD	Emerance	Gembloux	PIETTE	Joseph			
ENGLEBERT	Felix	LEFEBVRE	Henriette	Gembloux	QUERTEMONT	Jean Joseph	WECKMAN	Rosalie	Corbais
ENGLEBERT	Jean-Joseph	—		Gembloux	RASSE	Hubert	JAUMOTTE	Marie	Thorembais-les-Beguines
FALQUE	Joachim	FANUEL	Ferdinande	Meux	RENIER	Pierre	TOLLON	Marie	Thorembais-les-Beguines
FLEMAL	Jean Francois	BOUSMAN	Marie-Therese	Longueville	RINSE	Alexandre	FLAWINNE	Euphrasie	Petit-Rosiere
ELEMAL	Louis Constant		Marie-Therese	Longueville	ROUER	Charles			Emage
FRANCOIS	Adrien	SUFRIANG-VILLE	Florentine	Hevillers	ROUER	Jean-Joseph	RENIER	Marie	Emage
FRANCOIS	Joseph	GASPARD	Desiree		ROUER	Theodore	HERALY	Antoinette	Emage
FRANCOIS	Pascal	—			SIMON	Eli		Philomene	
FRANCOIS	Pierre	—			SPLINGAIRE	François		Florence	Dion-le-Mont
FRANK	Alexis	BARBIER	Desiree		SPLINGAIRE	Jean			
GASPART	Bernard	MONFIIS	Clemence		STROOBANTS	Charles			
GASPART	Francois(?)	LEPAGE	Celina		THOMAS	Florent			Walhain
GIGOT	Jean Baptiste	FLAHAUT	Catherine	Tourinnes-St-Lambert	THIRY	Celestin			Greze-Doiceau
GILSON	Charles	CLEMENT	Marie-Barbe	Corroy-le-Grand	THIBONNE	Charles			
CILSON	Gilles.iosqjs	LOUIS	Marie-Josephine	Corbais	TREMBLEZ	Isidore	BERO	Ursule	Greze-Doiceau
GUEULETTE	Jean	GASPART	Sophie		VANDYCKE	Louis			
HERBIGNIAT	Antoine	—			VANGINDERTALIEN	Edouard	KINARD	Marie-Therese	
HERLACHE	Alexandre	TONON	Florentine	Ceroux-Mousty	VIRLEE	Antoine	BLANCBONNET	Marie-Rachele	Meux
LAMBLLOT	Constant	—		Maleves-St-Marie	WAUTHIELET	Eli	HOTTAT	Maximilienne	
LARDINOIS	Jean-Pierre	GELINNE	Amelie	Incourt	WAUTIER	Gregoire	WECKMAN	Rosalie	Wavre
LEDEBELLE	Hubert	NOEL	Rosalie	Meux	WERY	Louis			
LEBOTTE	Theodore	—	Antoinette		ZEPHIRIN	Ignace		Julienne	
LECAPITAINE	Constant	—							
LECLOUX	Leonard	PIETTE	Marie	Mont-Saint-Andre					
LEDOCOQ	Charles	—							
LEFEBVRE	Leopold		Anne Joseph	Pietrebais					
LUMAYE	Jean-Joseph	BUCHET	Marie-Therese	Tourinnes-St-Lambert					
MACCAUX	Felicien	ROUYER	Felicienne	Grand-Leez					
MARTIN	Francois	MASSART	Marie-Therese	Grand-Leez					
MASSART	Cornel								
MASSART	Felix	ALLARD	Marie-Louise						
MASSART	Jean-Baptiste	QUERTEMONT	Elisabeth						
MEUNIER	Alexandre	MARLIER	Catherine						
MIGNON	Charles			Chastre-Villeroux					
MIGNON	Louis	GILLIS	Marie-Louise	Chastre-Villeroux					

The Area News

The Peninsula Belgian-merican Club of Namur, Wisconsin, is planning its 1982 visit to Belgium. The group will leave on May 18 and return June 4. It has been twenty years since the Wisconsin club began biennial trips to "the old country" The visits started with the idea of just seeing the homeland of our ancestors. The base for that first jaunt was the seacoast village of DeHaan. Word spread throughout Belgium that Americans had come to see the country and to search for relatives. By 1974, an alliance had formed with the Wallonie-Wisconsin Society of Namur, Belgium. For the first several years, the exchanges beckoned great numbers of people on both sides of the ocean. The two Namurs became the base villages.

By use of the old Walloon language learned from their ancestors, the Americans were able to converse with their counterparts in Belgium. Members of both groups opened their doors; sightseeing trips were organized; dinners and special celebrations were held. People found long-lost cousins and made many new friends. While the numbers have become smaller, the camaraderie is still there. We cannot escape the ties that bind --- our common Belgian heritage.

Heritage Hill

Your columnist was invited to Christmas dinner at the Belgian farm at Heritage Hill State Park. Members of the Park staff who are of Belgian descent prepared a delicious meal of chicken, trippe, boiled potatoes, apple butter, jutt, and Belgian pie (tarte). Reverend James Massart, a descendant of the original owners of the farmhouse, was the honored guest. Heritage Hill is an open-air museum containing buildings of historical significance to the Green Bay area. They annually open their doors for a holiday tour so visitors can see the decorations used in the past time. Normal open hours are held from May through September.

Belgian Emigrants — 10th of a Series

In May of 1989 we began publishing the names of emigrants from various Belgian communities. These departure lists were gathered by researchers from different sources, primarily from old Population Registers (Census) in Belgium. Many of the emigrants settled in Wisconsin, but the lists are not limited to this state. We hope they have been helpful for readers of "Belgian Laces" in finding home villages of their ancestors. It must be remembered that these are villages of departure and not necessarily places of birth. If birthplace is known, it is shown here.

Beauvechain

Maximilien LACROIX, born 1823; his wife Marie Therese HOTAT, 1833; and their son Louis Emile LACROIX, born 30 December 1854; left 20 April 1856; Jean Baptiste WAGENAIRE, born 1802; his wife Florence MICHEL, 1813; and children Genevieve, Octavie, Eleonore, and Marie Therese; left 5 April 1856;

Theodore ROSBONNE, born 1810 Nil St. Martin; his wife Marie Julie RENOIR, born 1810; and children Desire, Antoinette, Anne-Josephe, Victor Joseph, and Pelagic; left 27 June 1855;

Jacques Joseph BRANS, born 1789, widower; his son Xavier MANS, 1825, and daughter-in-law Marie DeKuypers, born Brussels 1827; and grand-daughter Marie-Barbe BRANS, 1855; left 10 December 1856;

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Constance Julie SCHAYES, born 1800, widow of Isidore LORIMIER; her three daughters and a son-in-law --- Josephine Zelig LORINIER and Desire DEPREZ, Catherine Pelagic LORIMIER and Josephine Zoe LORIMIER; left 5 April 1856;

Louis BRIESEN and his wife Pelagic DELANOYER; left 21 October 1855;

Jean Baptiste BRANS, born 1820; his wife Bernardine OEWFVRE, 1809; their children Victor, Sidonie-Charlotte, and Emilie; left 13 February 1856;

Isidore-Antoine DURDU, born 1820; his wife Maire Antoinette CESAR, 1819; their children Eulalie—Pelagic and Pierre Joseph; left 13 February 1856;

Marie-Joseph FRIX, born 1830; left 27 June 1855;

Jean-Baptiste CESAR, born 1793; his wife Isabelle VANCATER, born 1801; their children David, Simon, Antoinette, and Fraricois CESAR. David and Simon left 27 June 1855; parents and other children left 5 April 1856;

Auguste PAUL and his wife Pelagic CESAR, and a son; left 9 February 1856;

Casimir VANCATER, born 1813; his wife Victoire MARTIN; and children Casimir, Didier, Pelagic, and Theodore; left 5 April 1856;

Nichlas Joseph DE BECKER, born 1802 Tourinne-la-Grosse; his wife Marie- Therese GILSON; their children Louis-Joseph, Elma, Marie-Louise, and Marie Anne; left 27 June 1855; notes say the parents returned to Belgium;

Auguste NOEL; wife Marie-Therese MOREAU, and daughter Anne-Marie NOEL, left 20 April 1856;

Jacques GILBERT, born 1789 Huppaye, widower; his son and daughter-in-law

Gustave GILBERT and Julie BINON; left 12 February 1855;

Ferdinand MOUREAU, born 1799; his wife Barbe MICHEL of Hougaerde; and their children Anne-Marie, Desire, Antoinette, Victor, Philomene, and Marie- Therese: left 27 April 1857;

Julien MOUREAU, born 1831; and his wife Josephine JACQUART; left 13 February 1856;

Francois-Joseph THEYSE, born 1820 Pietrebais; his wife Rosalie GODSOUL; and daughter Marie-Josephe THEYSE; left 13 February 1856;

Jean-Joseph BARETTE, born 1801; his wife Marie-Therese DELEUZE of Pietrebais, and children Stephanie, Xavier, Marie-Therese, Cornelius, Virginie, and Jules-Joseph; left 2 April 1856;

Francois-Joseph BARETTE, born 1835; and his wife Henriette DALCQ of St. Remi-Geest; left 2 April 1856;

Maximilien RENIER, born 1831; and his wife Victorine BARAS; left 2 April 1856;

Josephine SERVAIS, widow of Nicolas CHERPION; her children Julien Joseph and Felicite CHERPION; left 2 April 1856;

Ferdinand FRANCAERT, born 1826; his wife Prudence MOISSE of Nethen; and A their children Hubert Joseph, Jean Joseph, and Marie Henriette FRANCAERT; left 5 April 1856

Pierre Joseph MOTTART, born in 1781 Nethen, a widower; left 13 February 1856 Honore MOTTART, born 1824; his wife Rosalie JACQUART; and two daughters Marie-Josephine and Marie Louise MOTTART; left 13 February 1856;

Charles Eugene LELOUP, born 1806; his wife Petronille COLETTE; and their children Stephanie, Augustin, Maximilien, and Marie Therese LELLOUP; left 27 June 1855;

Clement BARETTE, born 1809 Tourinne-la-Grosse; his wife Eleonore JOPPLET, widow of Jean-Joseph MOUREAU; and their children Jean-Christostome MOUREAU, Hubert MOUREAU, Gaspar, Julien, Olivier, and Octavie BARETTE; left 5 April 1856;

Julien Joseph VANCATER, born 1826; his wife Marie-Joseph PETITJEAN; and their children Desire, Simon-Joseph, Romain-Vital; and Marie-Adolphine VANCATER; Julien left 27 June 1855, came back for his family and all left 25 July 1856;

Joseph JACQUART, born 1812; Eleonore JACQUART, born 1825; Marie-Barbe JACQUART, born 1830; and Marie-Louise JACQUART, born 1852; left 13 February 1856;

(to be continued)

Mary Ann Defnet

The OREGON Corner

A former Baker City inhabitant keeps a truly Belgian "Sport" alive in Stayton, Oregon.

PIGEON RACING STILL ATTRACTIVE SPORT TO AREA RESIDENTS

They coo. They cluck, they flutter and they always seem to know where they are going. You could even stuff one in a box, travel 500 miles from home, let it go and it would fly right back to where you started. Amazing, just amazing.

They go by a variety of names, these navigators of the sky. Some people call them doves, pigeon-carrier or homing-pigeon.. Others call them homers, squabs, pouters or ever turbits, tumblers and fantails.

All names of love and adoration, no doubts.

But while they have many names they are best known as Pigeons and they have quite a human following. From the east to west coasts, people play with, house, nurture and ever eat this directional prince of the sky.

One of those pigeon admirers is former Stayton Mayor, Marcel Van Driesche. "I've been raising them for 60 years now," he says. "My Dad got me started and I've just kept it up. Van Driesche says that raising pigeons is still a popular sport and racing continues to be a very well attended event.

"There are a lot of clubs around," he says. "We still race the birds and the winners are prized for their breed stock potential. But even if you don't race they are still fun to raise and watch fly around."

For people like Van Driesche the raising of pigeons is part love of birds and part love of animal husbandry.

Besides other peculiar needs, the birds require a unique housing set-up (Its called a coop when the birds are pets and a loft for the more serious racing type). "I call them coops," says Van Driesche, as he shows off the various parts of the birds home. "They have perches to sit on, landing boards for stopping after a flight and a one way gate so they can get back into the coop, but can't get out unless I let them. Pigeons are unique in the fact that you can get them out for a flight and they come back home. Most birds would probably just keep on going."

Like many serious pigeon raisers, Van Driesche has adult male and female birds, which results in the laying of fertilized eggs. "Each female will lay two eggs and they hatch in about seventeen days. It's good to raise them here, because they generally always stay around if you raise them, from a young age. if you get a bird that's older it may want to go back to its first home. I once gave a guy from Reno - Nevada some birds and one of them came back."

Van Driesche said that there are a lot of names for pigeons and many raisers will name a certain cross themselves, the ones he names he calls "Vanos".

But like any good racer, the fine art of coming back must be learned. 'We start training them at three months of age,' Van Driesche said, we start them out at five miles from home and increase it to 10 then 15 and so on. We take them out hungry so they'll have a good reason to come home."

Van Driesche says that there are basically two categories of birds that race. "Young and Old." Old birds are more than a year old when they race in May or June. The young ones are less than a year and we generally race them, in August or September, **We** race the old birds once a week during the ten week season and the young ones are Flown for six to eight weeks,"

The best weather for flying is when it's clear and sunny." In hot weather they fly real high to avoid the heat and when it's cold they stay low to keep warm, he says. "When the weather is fine they can fly about 350 miles (580 Km) in seven hours. That's really moving and figures out to about 1200 yards per minute. But there are dangers during those flights. "Wire, hawks and cats can take their toll," he says. "They fly into a fence and get all cut up or a cat snaps them when they stop for a rest. And hawks would like nothing better than nice fat pigeon. We've stitched up plenty of birds that came in after a flight all mangled up. The birds tend to peak out at three years of age as far as racers concerned, but they can live up to 15 years.

'My favorite bird lived to be 15 years old," he says. His name was 'INK' and had spots like ink all over him. He was a good flyer and a guy in Alaska offered me \$50 for him, which I did not accept. Ink died one night and that was a real loss. He just fell off the perch, fell right down on the floor. I kept his ankle band, he said.

For Van Driesche the raising and racing of pigeons has resulted in an upstairs room filled with trophies and years of memories. I've had many good years with these birds," he

says. "They can make a mess now and then, like when they molt, but it's a quiet hobby and a lot of fun. You just act hooked once you start."

This article written by Ron Oberg, from 'The Stayton Mail' was submitted to us by Marcel Van Driesche.

Marcel is the son of Julius Van den Oniesche and Alida Scheerers who came to Baker City from Belgium in the beginning of this century. In 1914 they lived with the other Belgians on Resort Street, south side of the city. Marcel now lives in Stayton,

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Oregon and, as mentioned before, was the Mayor of this city. His brother Cyril and his sister Elsie still live in Baker-City, while their brother Frank lives in Portland, Or.

Raising and racing pigeons is one of the “National Sports” in Belgium, where people engaged in this hobby are called “duivenmelkers” (pigeon-milkers), really pigeon-fancier.

Even songs have been written about them: I remember the following two lines of one in the dialect of Ghent, Belgium

“ ‘k zit er zuu geere in myn duivenmelkers, doar te zijn is m’n gruut genot’
“I love to sit in my pigeon coop, to be there is my utter delight.”

Congratulation to you, Marcel for keeping this Belgian tradition alive! And thank you for sharing this article with us.

Are there any other “duivenmelkers” among our readers? Members who are having the same hobby? I know that the Belgian Community in Mishawaka has a large Homing Pigeon Club, and that they will fly as far as 1,000 miles. What about other old Belgian Traditions? one that survived in spite of the distance from ‘the Old Country’? Let us know, and send us your story.

The West Virginia Corner

Meet Rene Zabeau

by Fred Barkey.

Rene Zabeau was born in Mount Jewett, PA, in 1916, from Belgian Parents. He spent most of his working life as a glass cutter in Sistersville, New Martinsville and Clarksburg, where he lives.

He was a vice president of the West Virginia State Federation of Labor and he served in, the West Virginia State Legislature. Zabeau explains the apprenticeship system in window glass which persisted even in the machine plants: he then describes his involvement in union politics and his election to public office.

“You had to serve three years as an apprentice of which at least one year had to be of full- time cutting. You were completely under the jurisdiction of a master workman. The company didn’t have anything to do with that. The master workman had to agree to teach you. Now, my older brother sponsored me but he was my master workman in name only. He was an inspector, so another workman, Luke Toussaint taught me, and he paid me one dollar out of his own pay. The way we worked was that they built a little table in the back of your workman’s stall. He’d cut up the sheets and then I’d cut up the worst strips of these sheets. If an apprentice showed up that he could do the job like a master workman, the boss cutter might give him a table and he’d draw the pay of a regular cutter. However, if there was any cutter who was out of work, walkin’ the streets, and he come by and wants a job, he could take your table. When I had a table like that, I was really careful not to cut too much glass so that somebody wouldn’t come along and want my job.”

I was first elected to office in my own union in the fall of 1943 but at that time, I had already been elected secretary treasurer of the central labor body in 1942. Our union president at Pittsburgh Plate asked me if I would go with him to a central body meeting. He’d been passing union papers to me so I said I’d go and I went up there that night and got elected secretary treasurer. Our local union was \$250.00 in debt which was a lot of money then, Well, I suggested that we sell advertisement spaces on our union hall walls: \$25.00, \$10.00, and so on for so much space. I suggested that our unemployed members could sell the space for a ten percent Commission. We cleaned our debt and were able to move our hall to a better location.”

I also got involved in State Federation work and got elected as one of the Vice Presidents in the administration of Gene Carter. Gene was lobbying the legislature but on his way to church he jumped off his front porch fell, and broke his back. He asked me to take his place. I guess I said okay because some of the lemons said, ‘Why didn’t you run?’ I said, ‘With a name like Zabeau, don’t see how I could make it.’ I ran more or less to get them off my back and, guess, I half-way wanted to do it. I had just organized a laundry workers union. They wanted to pay me but I wouldn’t take it. Instead, they send me a truck load of Castile soap with a slogan on the rap p Cr ‘For a clean honest government, elect Rene Zabeau’. I passed on my soap, and got elected, I had a lot of women calling me for it.”

1812

by Pierre L. Inghels

Sometime ago I had been asked for assistance by one of THE BELGIAN RESEARCHERS to look up for the name VAN DEN HERT in my Belgian telephone directories, but to no avail, not a single VAN DEN HERT is listed in Flanders. Viewing a microfilm a few days later as I had done so many times before, in the hope of finding a familiar name, with great surprise, I came across the name VAN DEN HERT and proceeded immediately to copy the document of which I give the translation here below: (the original is in French)

On this day the fourth of March eighteen hundred and twelve, at ten in the morning, I, undersigned, chief of police of the City of Ghent, received the visit of Jean Dubois accompanied by his wife Julia, born Van Dorpen, professional publicans, owners of the pub "Den Hert" (The Elk) presenting me with a baby of the masculine sex seemingly aged 8 to 10 days, wrapped in a blanket and dressed with a yellow diaper, a red camisole and a bonnet of Brussels lace. A little paper pinned to his shirt with the following words: "I have been baptized and my name is Jean". The Dubois declared to have found this child in the hallway of their pub, around seven this morning.

We have taken possession of the child under the law, in order to turn it over to the children hospice (foundling home) and we have given him the name "Jean Van Den Hert" because it was there that it was found.

signed J.Dubois A.Verlinden, chief of police.

My curiosity aroused, continued to study the microfilm of 1812, which led me to an incredible and most fascinating discovery. I found one hundred and two more abandoned children in Ghent and each time the child received as last name either the place where it had been found or some other outstanding characteristic. To name a few I found

Rue du Coq (Rooster Street)	Joseph Lecoq
in a church	Auguste Leglise (Church)
under a street light	Auguste Lanterne
a smiling, happy baby	Elisabeth Bonenfant (Good child)
in fancy beautiful clothes	Pelagie Marquise
a soaking wet baby	Charles Canard (Duck)
the first of May	Gustave Mai
by a soap merchant	Guillaume Savonnier (soapmaker)
very strong and big baby	Hercule Le Fort (the Strong)
On the City Hall stairs	Maurice Lescalier (the stairs)
on the Lamb market	Marie Mouton
smiling baby	Paul Bienheureux (very happy)
in the Brabant Street	Pierre Brabant
on the 14th of July	Virginie Bastille (French holiday)
with a nice medallion	Napoleon Email (Enamel)
in the Sacrament Street	Marguerite Sacrament
in a hallway	Catherine Du Vestibul e (hallway)

This to give you but a few examples of the originality of the good chief of police. Each of the 103 foundlings received a different name, the one just as beautiful as the other. kept the whole list for future reference.

So Jean Van Den Hert has no parents or at least it would be almost impossible to trace his family beyond this document. And so it is for 102 more children found in Ghent in 1812.

This discovery prompted me to research the conditions which could have caused this influx of abandoned children.

WHAT HAPPENED IN THE CITIES IN 1812 ?

I am aware that for most of us, living in the twentieth century, in a Country where armed conflicts are unknown, it is hard to realize the conditions of the people of Europe of the early 1800's. After all, more than 180 years have gone by since, and these 180 years were filled with inventions and discoveries : trains, cars airplanes, radio, television, penicillin, insulin, computers, and ever those little wrist-watches that you can now buy for a mere few dollars, with calculator and computer all incorporated..

But let's go back to 1812...

No trains, no cars, even no bicycles. The only means of transportation were horses and or ox-carts, or just plain on foot... all very slow. Belgium, or the area that was to become Belgium after 1830, has gone through a lot of hardship during the last centuries: wars, famine, pestilence, revolutions, occupations by the troops of all the surrounding powers: French, Spanish, Austrian, English, German and now French again with Napoleon.

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Everyone wanted a piece of the pie. Armies come in and out, coming from all directions, making life very difficult for the inhabitants who have to feed the troops, lodge them and give them everything they needed or wanted, and besides the soldiers helped themselves to what was left, even women...

In times of active wars, the armies drafted “volunteers” who often were forced to enlist against their will, as was customary in that period. A lot of Belgians had to leave and in many cases didn’t even have the time nor the opportunity to go back home to say good bye to their loved ones.

The early 1800s was the time of the Napoleonic wars, and the French troops were occupying most of Western Europe.

In the cities, food was becoming scarce, because of disruption in the distribution of the reserves, some storage and supply transports were plundered by the masses, and black market of grain and meat were common practices. All this made life in the cities very difficult for the people. To make matters even worse, many a baby was born which would never know his father, who was either drafted and never returned or who was merely a passing soldier. The mothers had barely enough to survive. Child mortality rate was very high, and of those who survived many were abandoned, not abandoned because of lack of love..., but because of human misery and material hardship.

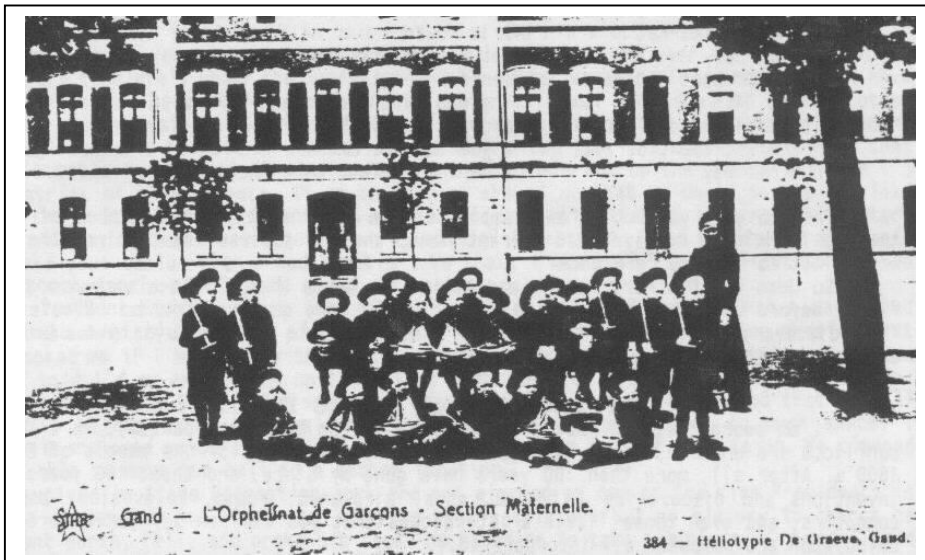
As stated before, in 1812, the registers for the City of Ghent alone which in that time had a population of around 60,000, lists over 103 abandoned children, ranging in ages from a few days to around 18 months. (many Belgian and French Cities seemed to have had the same problem at about the same time). All of these children were left in very conspicuous places so as to make sure that they would be discovered very soon, and many if not most of them with little notes pinned to their clothes stating their first name, the fact that they had been baptized or some other information that a desperate mother wanted to give about the child.

As established in the register entry for Van Den Hert, these children became “property” of the City or of the State and were placed in orphanages or foundling houses until they reached 18 years or age of maturity. They were taught a skill which allowed them to be independent once they left the orphanage.

I would like to suggest that some of them, finding themselves without family ties in their homeland, were lured to the New World, the land of opportunity. This would be an acceptable explanation for the absence of Van Den Hert in present day Flanders. We now have two members who trace their lineage to a similar situation, around the same period in history and in the same town.

Usually when we view microfilms, we are so engrossed in our own family lines that we overlook the “neighbor”, the neighboring names. These documents however are direct witnesses of the times they were drawn up and we could learn a lot about the lives of our ancestors, as reflected in this information.

After all the fate of our families is forged by the history of the land.



Picture of the “Boy’s Orphanage” in Ghent, Belgium, around the turn of the century. Don’t they look sweet, these little boys, called the “kulderkenst” pictured here on the play ground of the orphanage? But don’t let this fool you! Reality was much harsher. If the building projected a cold impersonal front, the facilities and the daily routine were organized according to military principles. The “kulderkens”, dressed in their dark gray uniforms, two by two, walking in rows, were a familiar sight when we were young, but have since disappeared from the city scene of Ghent. Today, just like here in the U.S., they are raised in families or group homes, if they don’t have relatives to take care of them.

FROM AND TO ... FROM AND TO...

Howard THOMAS, #136 wishes to advise of a change in his fees for research at the Library of Congress and National Archives. Fees will now \$7 for research hour (this includes transportation and postage) plus photocopy costs. You decide how much time you want, and a \$20 deposit is requested (any unused part refundable of course). Please give as much information on your search request as possible, and try to indicate those records you have already searched whether successful or not. This will help avoid duplication of efforts and save you money. Howard THOMAS, 105 Fourth Street NE. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002

Alice BRABANT-CAILEY writes "My great grand father was a foundling, found on the Brabantdam in Ghert, Belgium 26 May 1815 and registered as Charles BRABANT. A cousin of mine from Detroit, MI. who has living relatives in Belgium was able to get much information for me. We have copies of the foundlings police report. As well as copies of his marriage records and records of his children. We know nothing about his childhood but maybe we will find out some day if there is anything available from the orphanage where he was and maybe also his army records.

(Editor's note) Years ago, searching through microfilms of the year 1812 in Ghent, I found documents of 103 foundlings and wrote an article about them for Belgian Laces (# 18, May 1981). One of the reports reads as follows: A young woman with a baby in her arms walking on the Brabantdam (Brabant Dikey) in Ghent asked another lady to keep her baby for a few minutes while she was going into a store. "I will be right back", she said.

The lady accepted the baby and waited for the mother to come back. She never did, probably went out through the back door of the store. The lady then later took the baby to the foundlings office at the police station. The records date this event around the 6th of July 1812. The chief of police gave the child the name Pierre BRABANT, because he had been found on Brabantdam. The record also indicates that the child was about 14 to 15 months old. Although this is not the same child as Alice's ancestor, it is an interesting coincidence. Because of its timeliness we reprint in this issue the article published in 1981

Ruth SCHIELTZ received a book written by Mrs PIQUART of Carlsbourg, Belgium about the WAGNER family, and writes: - am so grateful to her, she has given me nine more ancestors in the 1800's and 1700's. I realize how long and hard she must have worked on it.

If anyone has any WAGNER ancestors in Belgium this book is a must. She has done a great job trying to include all the WAGNER's in this area of Belgium. I am very diligently working on my SCHIELTZ-HUBERTY book, and hope to publish it in the spring of this year'.

Congratulation to you, Ruth, and keep up the good work,

From James E. SMITH I've been a member of The Belgian Researchers for only two years, and with each issue I receive, it becomes more and more enjoyable. It just seems to activate my inherent BELGIAN roots and makes me feel very good about myself. I am starting a genealogy search for my relatives who came from the Namur and Courcelles area. Thank you again.

From Kay BRUSATI. I wish to take this opportunity to say how pleased I am to have discovered your association. I am especially happy to have received two replies to my query (91-131) and both of them came from Belgium. Here are the copies of both of them. The letter from Jean Ducat was most interesting to me as we are both researching people who came from Luxembourg to Ohio. have just started writing a book about the Thomas and Kettel families, so I welcome all sources of additional information.

Pat DELAIN writes: "I thought you and the readers of Belgian Laces might be interested in the following. For years I have been looking for the death date of my great great grandmother. Since she was a widowed mother of a civil war casualty I wrote to the Pension Office in Washington for the files of mother and son. They send me the contents of the files; the military records and the application affidavits. All the information was of great interest but none of it contained her death date. I wrote a second time and they sent me the same again. One day I saw the ad of fellow member Howard THOMAS who offered to do research in the Pension Office. Howard immediately found the records of pension payments and the last payment made with the date of death. Just what I was looking for. The information needed was on the cover of the file, front and back. The moral of the story is to ask for the entire file including the jacket. it never occurred to the clerk to look at the jacket and notice that it contained the needed information. Noward did a great job, and his fee was very reasonable. Thank you for bringing us together".

Bob and Margaret KIRKPATRICK write: We certainly enjoyed the article "The Melting Pot Did not Melt" from Henry Verslype. Margaret's parents came to Kansas City, KS. at the turn of the century, and many things are just as the article describes".

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From Barbara POPE: The article “The Melting Pot did Not Melt” from Henri Verslyce, makes many sweeping generalities I would like to rebut. Is that possible?

(Editor’s note). Sure, everyone would be interested to read your and other members comments. After all, different people coming from and going to different areas may have had different experiences. We welcome your comments, we can all learn from these.

From Henry VERSLYPE . I am now going to work on the finishing of the ‘History of the Verslype’ and hope to have good luck in my research. I have located several members of the family in Flanders, and realize that in many cases I know more about the family than they do.

(Editor’s note) Henry has had three eye operations in the past year but writes that it finally was a success, after having been handicapped for most of last year.

We wish you the best, and a speedy recovery, Henry, and thank you for your contributions to Belgian Laces. We wish you also success with the finishing of your Verslype book.

From many many readers . “We enjoy the recipes a lot, would it be possible to get more?.” One of our members from Bend, Oregon even asked for a recipe of “Hutsepot” or “Hochepot”. Well Marlene, you will find a delicious “Gentse Hutsepot” on the recipe page. Another member in Belgium this time, wrote that she uses our recipes regularly and her family really enjoy them.

From Marguerite Christopherson: Since I went to Belgium in 1987, I keep in contact with my people. This past month I received announcements for three births and one death. Now I can update their sheets. While in Belgium I had everyone fill out genealogy sheets so it’s easy for me to complete them with the information they send me. Four brothers came to America including my father and they settled in the Big Horn Basin of Wyoming. They have a “Wambeke” reunion every year or so, and take my sheets along and update them. I am proud to be of Belgian stock. My daughter is putting our genealogy on computer. She has the Wambeke side finished back to the 1600’s. She is now working on the “Van Peteghem”. Isn’t that great. Say hello to Micheline for me, she is truly great!

From Pat DELAIN: I thought you might be interested in this pre-emption land claim of my ancestor Henri DELIN (DELAIN). I tracked it down at the Suitland Branch of the National Archives.

Henri DELIN and his family arrived in New York 13 May 1856. On June 2nd, in Kewaunee Co. WI. according to this affidavit, he began cutting logs to build a house which was completed one month later. Here is a copy of the document:

In the case of the Pre-Emption Claim of Henri DELIN, to the NE 1/4 of NW quarter of Section 1 in Town# 24 in Range No 23 in the Menasha Land District, Honore Motard being duly sworn, says that he is acquainted with the said Pre-Emption claimant Henri DELIN and the said described tract of land; that the said Henri DELIN is a citizen of the United States and the head of a family, having a wife and seven children, that he commenced his improvement in person on said tract of land the 2nd day of June AD. 1856, by cutting house logs that he on the 4th day of July AD 1856 had completed a dwelling house 22 by 16 feet square, one story high, with a board roof, one floor, one room, one outside door, two windows, and furnished with a stove; that he immediately moved into said house with his family and still continues to reside therein as a housekeeper and settler on said tract of land, that he has about one acre of said land under cultivation and has raised a crop on one acre of the same; that he did not move off from his own land in this state to make this settlement; and that he is not owner of three hundred and twenty acres of land in any State or Territory of the United States.

signed Honore X Motard.

Subscribed and sworn before me, this 12 day of July AD. 1856.

Pat writes: How could he have been a citizen as he only came to the States on the 13 May same year? Another thing: he had only 5 children.

(Editor’s note); It is unlikely that he was an American Citizen, but we are sure that at his arrival in the States he signed a Declaration of Intention . This gave him certain citizen rights. I would suggest that you try to get a copy of this document, it is very detailed about the person involved).

There are still some things hard to understand: Arriving in May in New York, he travelled to his claim, build a house and had a first crop on one acre of land that he first had to clear? And all this between the 2nd of June and the 12th of July of the same year?

It is very interesting that this document fits right with the story of Constant DELVEAUX, (See “Belgian Pioneers in Brussels, Wisconsin) . People in that time were really hard workers. They had to survive the harshness of the climate in a wild land and without any help. Their only support being the love for their family, and the desire to succeed.

QUERIES... QUERIES... QUERIES...

Here at the Office, we open a file for each query. When you send an answer to a member, may we ask you to send us a copy of your answer, so that we keep informed about the status of the research: update or close the file. Or send your answer to this office, we will transmit. Be sure to acknowledge receipt by a postcard or note as a matter of courtesy, so the members know their response got through to you.

92.144 GOUTTIERE

In 1953 we had a cousin Nestor GOUTTIERE living in Cleveland, Ohio. He ran a bakery. He had a brother Louis, who farmed somewhere in Ohio. Many years ago we lost all contact. Are there any people with the name GOUTTIERE left in Ohio? or in other States? Would members in Ohio or elsewhere check for me?

Barbara POPE 18301 S Henrici Road, Oregon City OR 97045

92.145 VANDERLINDEN - CHAPDU . My 3rd Great Grandparents were Maurice Henri VANDERLINDEN and Louise Helene CHAPDU. Their marriage certificate dated February 14, 1820, at St Louis Cathedral, New Orleans, LA, states that Maurice Henri was native of Ghent, Belgium; son of Joseph VANDERLINDEN and Coleta CANOODT. Would like any contact on the name VANDERLINDEN, will share.

Marguerite BROWNEE, 53C1 Guava Drive, HARLINGEN TX 72552.

92.146 WILMET - WILQUET. We are trying to find the origins and the whereabouts of the family of Florent WILMET and Sarah WILQUET. Florent born Belgium in 1834, and died 21 Apr. 1895 at Du Pere, WI. Sarah was born 18 June 1853 in Belgium and died 26 Aug 1934 Ashwaubenon WI. Her parents were Peter WILQUET and Eugenia DUQUETTE.

Ken COBURN, 50~ 1266 VANOERHOOF, BC. VOJ 3A0 Canada.

92.147 VERHAGEN - HEESACKER . We are trying to find the place of origin of the family of **Peter HEESACKER** and **Cornelia VERHAGEN**. Cornelia was born 18 Dec 1358 in Little Chute WI. Her parents were Henry VERHAGEN and Catherine JOOSTIN (JOOSTEN) from Belgium.

Ken COBURN, see 92.146.

92.148 . DE WULF. My great uncle was Pierre, Piet or Pieter DE WULF, born April 1865 in Lotenhulle, Belgium. He immigrated in the area of Detroit, MI., at the end of last century. I am interested to get in contact with family, descendants or related.

Pierre DE WULF, Embassy of Belgium, 3330 Garfield St.NW.Washington DC 20002.

92.149 BRASSEUR - TIHOUX . Jean Baptiste BRASSEUR, also called Martin at times, was born 9 April 1773 in Limal, Brabant (Some records give Baisy-Thy as his birth place). He died 6 June 1849 at Baisy-Thy. He married Josephine TIHOUX 20 Dec 1798 at Baisy-Thy. She was born 28 May 1777 at Baisy-Thy. I am trying to find out who his parents were? There are no records of his birth at Baisy-Thy. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Charlotte SCHMIDTROGERS 303 Reed Street, Jeannette, PA 15644

92.150 CARDOL – CARDOLS – We are searching for people with the name CARDOL or CARDOLS in Belgium and in the States. If you know or have known anyone with this name or if you have it in your genealogy, please contact us as soon as possible at Belgian Laces.

92-151 WINTGENS-WINTGEN – Jean Joseph WINTGENS born at Baelen sur Vesdre 7 Sep 1875. At the very start of World War 2, he left Verviers in May 1940 for the US. The family in Belgium lost contact and is trying to find out where he went, the place and date of his death or to locate eventual descendants. Please contact us as soon as possible at Belgian Laces.

92-151 HENKENS – One of our members in Belgium is looking for the family HENKENS. If you have this name in your genealogy or know people with this name, please contact us at Belgian Laces.

92-153 VAN HYFTE – VAN DE GUCHTE – I am trying to put my family tree together and have gotten as far as 1800. I want to ask members who have the above names in their genealogy to help me. We lost contact with some of our relatives and would like help to find them back.

Gaston E VAN HYFTE, 1703 Kofa Avenue, Parker, AZ 85344

92-154 VAN LANDSCHOOT – VERSELLDER, - DE SUTTER, - LIPPENS, -VAN HEE – Just before taking this bulletin to the printer we received a letter from Belgium asking to do some research in the US and Canada on the above names. If these are in your family tree or if you know people with the above names, please let us know at Belgian Laces Office. We will transmit to the family in Belgium and they will get in direct contact with you.

RECIPES

RECIPES

RECIPES

The following is the Belgian version of a “Boiled Dinner”. You can be assured that your parents, grand-parents or great-grandparents (depending on who left the “old country” or your background) ate this dish under one form or another during the long foggy winter months. Make sure everybody is hungry, or invite your neighbors the dish is well worth the effort!

HUTSEPOT- HOCHEPOT (serves 6-8 easily)

Ingredients:

MEATS (approximate)

1 to 1 Lbs boneless pork roast
2 lbs brisket of beef
1 Lb lamb's neck
1 lb spare ribs
1Lb salt pork in one piece

VEGETABLES

2-3 carrots
2-3 leeks
4 turnips cubed
1-2 onions studded with the cloves
curly cabbage (savoy)
1 celery
2 lb potatoes
3 cloves of garlic

SPICES:

thyme /bayleaf /2 cloves
salt and pepper

Put the brisket, the neck, the spare ribs and the salt pork in a large kettle with the spices. Add water to cover and bring to a boil (leave the boneless pork roast out!). Boil rapidly for 5 minutes, removing any scum that forms on the surface. Lower the heat and simmer gently for one hour. Add the carrots, the celery and the leek, all of these cut in 2 inch pieces, the turnips, the clove-studded onions and the sliced garlic. Bring back to a boil and continue simmering. Cut out the thick ribs of the cabbage and cut the cabbage in four. Parboil separately, drain and add to the kettle. If you prefer or carrot find curly cabbage, substitute with Brussels sprouts.

Brown the boneless pork roast either on top of the stove or in a warm oven until it is nicely browned on all sides; add to the hutsepot.

Peel and half the potatoes; add to the pot about 30 minutes before serving. Check seasonings. Total cooking time should be about 2 hours.

Optional: you can add chipolata or Kielbassa sausage, which should be slowly heated in a frying pan before being added to the hutsepot. If you are real brave and want to have the authentic great grandma touch, you will add to the first four meats: 1 pork tail / 1 pork ear / 1 halved pork foot

TO SERVE : set the table with deep plates or soup bowls; slice the meats and arrange on a large serving platter surrounded by the vegetables. Serve the juice separately in a soup tureen. Serve with French bread or any good home baked bread. This is really sturdy Belgian fare!

WITLOOF-CHICONS (Belgian Endives)

This small, elongated, tightly packed, white to pale green-yellow vegetable is Belgium's winter vegetable per excellence. It is versatile, keeps well and delicious. Formerly all of it came from Belgium, but now it is raised in the US. We see it appearing more readily on local vegetable stands in large food store chains. Its gentle bitter taste is something that the American palate has to get used to, but be adventurous and try some of the following suggestions

As a salad: slice thinly and use either alone or mix with fresh spinach leaves or tomato slices (always with fresh thinly sliced or chopped onions, of course!). Use a vinaigrette dressing.

As a Main dish – Au Gratin: (serves 6)

Clean 6 endives. Melt some butter in a pan and slowly cook the endives, taking care not to let them burn (10 min). Take out the endives without disturbing their shape. Roll each of the endives in a slice of cooked ham. Make a white sauce and cook a thin layer in a buttered casserole dish. Arrange the ham-rolled endives in the dish and cover all with the rest of the white sauce. Finally sprinkle generously with grated gruyere cheese (or parmesan if you prefer). Add a few dots of butter and bake in a hot oven until cheese is melted and the gratin is slightly browned.

As a side dish : Braised

Start like for the gratin recipe. After 10 minutes add 3 Tbsp of fresh lemon juice. Continue braising over low heat until endives are tender. Add 2 Tbsp of sugar and let this caramelize. Serve immediately. This is an excellent vegetable dish to accompany baked chicken or medium rare roastbeef.

SMAKELIJK!

BON APPETIT!

MAHLZEIT!

Leen